

result the President has made clear he will veto this bill.

As our Nation continues to debate the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq, some of my colleagues have argued that Congress should mandate a hard deadline for the redeployment of U.S. troops. While I believe that Congress has an important role to play in this debate, such crucial decisions should not be made without substantial input from our military and foreign policy leaders. I have disagreed with many aspects of our strategy in Iraq, but I feel strongly that requiring an arbitrary date for troop withdrawal would endanger our soldiers and undermine efforts to maintain stability in the Middle East.

Now is the time for Democrats and Republicans to unite around a strategy that funds our troops and supports an effective way forward in Iraq. We cannot afford to waste precious moments arguing over political objectives and pork barrel spending projects, such as those included in this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote against this bill and I call upon my colleagues to dispense with the political rhetoric and get to work immediately on passing a bipartisan emergency supplemental pending bill.

#### IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN'S BID FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2007*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, for years now, Taiwan has had no representation in the World Health Organization (WHO). The health rights of Taiwan's 23 million people have been grossly neglected. As a democracy, the Government of Taiwan is compelled to respect the wishes of its people and apply for membership into the WHO. Also, Taiwan would like to be invited to send observers to sessions of the World Health Assembly this May.

I support Taiwan's bid to be a member of the WHO. Taiwan's bid is closely related to its campaign for World Health Assembly observer status and meaningful participation in World Health Organization activities. The health rights of the 23 million Taiwanese people must be respected. Moreover, Taiwan is willing and able to contribute to the world health network. As of December 2006, Taiwan had 32 technical missions stationed in 29 partner countries and dispatched 16 mobile medical missions to 12 countries. It is conceivable that with a membership in the WHO, Taiwan will be able to contribute even more of its resources to the global health network.

Several years ago, Taiwan was gripped in crisis with the outbreak of SARS. Since Taiwan was not a member of the WHO, Taiwan encountered a significant amount of red-tape in getting WHO assistance to the affected areas during its urgent time of need during the SARS crisis. Should there ever be a new medical crisis in Taiwan, the WHO should be free of all barriers in assisting people in urgent need of immediate medical attention.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan's application for WHO membership in the name of Taiwan does not represent any change of Taiwan's status quo. Taiwan is most commonly known

as "Taiwan" internationally and the Government of Taiwan has made it absolutely clear that it has no intention of changing its national name. Taiwan's Constitution has not been changed.

I hope that the administration will once again enthusiastically support Taiwan's application and that no government will dispute Taiwan's membership request. All nations, especially the United States, Japan, and major European countries, should request the WHO to make appropriate arrangements for Taiwan to participate in WHO's mechanisms or at the very least grant Taiwan WHA observer status this May.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE AU SABLE ANGLERS

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most effective, well organized and long standing conservation groups in the State of Michigan, the Au Sable Anglers. This organization, which has done so much to preserve the Au Sable River, celebrates its twentieth anniversary on Saturday.

The Au Sable River is located in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The river winds from Lake Huron inland running approximately 140 miles to the center of the peninsula. This picturesque river and its surrounding wetlands are a favorite fishing spot for Michigan residents seeking brown trout as well as for fishing enthusiasts who travel from across the country each year for some of the best fishing in the nation. The river has faced many threats, but the Au Sable Anglers have remained stalwart champions of the river, helping to preserve this wondrous natural resource for future generations of trout anglers and outdoorsmen.

The Anglers of the Au Sable was born out of efforts to prevent a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policy from being rescinded. The State's 1986 Catch and Release fishing policy was at the time being challenged. To thwart efforts to rescind this policy, a local businessman named Rusty Gates, whose fishing lodge and tackle shop abuts the banks of the Au Sable River, rallied supporters.

In May of 1986, Mr. Gates began culling a mailing list from his lodge guests and patrons of his fly shop to organize allies and protect the catch and release policy. In September of 1986, six anglers—Rusty Gates, Dan Drislane, Ed McGlenn, Dennis Potter, Vic Prisliipski and Gene Ballou—met in the Gates Au Sable Lodge. This organizational meeting was the genesis of the Au Sable Anglers. In August of that year, the Au Sable Anglers held their first annual members meeting with 75 conservationists in attendance.

While the Au Sable Anglers were originally formed to address the issue of the Department of Natural Resources' Catch and Release policy, they rapidly expanded their areas of interest to face down an array of threats to the Au Sable River.

When the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initiated its re-licensing process for scores of hydroelectric dams in Michigan, in-

cluding six on the Au Sable River, the Anglers helped ensure that Au Sable River would be protected. In the early 1990s, the Anglers discovered illegal water regulation at a dam on the Au Sable that was causing extremely low water conditions. After pressure from the Anglers, the owner of the dam abandoned this environmentally damaging practice. The Au Sable Anglers were also involved on issues surrounding gas exploration near the river.

Although the Au Sable Anglers are active on public policy and environmental issues affecting the Au Sable River and its ecosystem, they are not afraid to roll up their sleeves to help remediate pollution and keep the river clean. Over the years they have helped restore scores of soil erosion sites and funded the repair and restoration of hundreds of fish habitat sites. Every year since September of 1996, they have held an annual river clean up, in which hundreds of volunteers walk more than 100 miles of river, filling trash bags with waste and debris. Since its inception, the annual river clean up has evolved into an event that rallies the entire Au Sable River community together. Not only do volunteers from the Anglers pitch in, but local property owners along the river open their land to the trash collection teams and help guide the teams from point to point.

The organization has also lent its financial resources towards engaging young people in conservation studies. Over the years, the Anglers have underwritten several graduate biology students to investigate soil erosion and other problems impacting the Au Sable River and its habitat.

Today, after twenty years of hard work to preserve the Au Sable River for future generations, the Au Sable River Anglers remains a vibrant and effective organization. The group boasts over 600 conservationists as dues paying members and remains involved in local environmental issues and in river remediation efforts. Rusty Gates continues to serve as the organization's President. Like the organization's founders and board members, he should be commended for dedicating so much of his personal time to building the organization and protecting the Au Sable River.

Madam Speaker, the Au Sable Anglers provide an inspiring example of how ordinary citizens can band together to protect and improve their local environment. While the Au Sable Anglers have not won every battle they have fought, their collective, tireless efforts have done much to preserve one of northern Michigan's great locations for fishing, canoeing and outdoors life.

Twenty years ago, six outdoorsmen gathered to discuss how they could protect and improve a northern Michigan river that they cared for greatly. Today, twenty years later, thanks to that initial meeting, the Au Sable Anglers remains a vigilant defender of the Au Sable River.

Madam Speaker, as this local, grassroots organization observes its twentieth anniversary, I would ask that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in thanking the Au Sable Anglers for their work and in saluting them for their stalwart advocacy on behalf of the Au Sable River.